

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the final Office Action dated November 18, 2003 (Paper No. 5) and the Examiner's Answer mailed July 19, 2004. In light of the articulately expressed arguments raised in the Examiner's Answer, the present amendment proposes to accept the allowable subject matter of claims 2, 7 and 8, each of which was indicated as containing allowable subject matter in the Action mailed November 18, 2003. *See* Paper No. 5 at 3. No new matter has been added.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendment places the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein) and does not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration. The amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to arguments raised in the Examiner's Answer of July 19, 2004. Entry of this amendment and reexamination and reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Claim 2, which was indicated as being allowable in the Action mailed November 18, 2003, has been amended so as to be in independent form. Claim 3 has been amended to solely depend upon allowable claim 2. Claim 4 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 7, which was also indicated as being allowable in the Action dated November 18, 2003. Claims 5-9 now depend either directly or indirectly upon allowable base claim 4. The present amendment thus seeks to capture the allowable subject matter of original claims 2, 7 and 8, in addition to any dependencies thereon. The subject matter of originally rejected claims 1, 3-6 and 9 has been cancelled subject to its pursuit in a continuing application, concurrently filed herewith.

Conclusion

For at least the foregoing reasons, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If the examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. NIL-166, from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: September 20, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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